A Tentative Synopsis of the Ph. D. Thesis
Titled

"Heritage as Nightmare : A Post-colonial Study of Abdulrazak Gurnah's Select Novels"

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Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada
University, Nanded

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Researcher
MR. TRYAMBAK GANESHRAO BOBADE
School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies,
S.R.T.M. University, Nanded

Research Supervisor
DR.K. RAJKUMAR
Principal
Shri Guru Buddhiswami Mahavidyalaya, Purna
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The 'Post-colonialism' is an ideological response to the colonial thought .It deconstructs the dominating ideological discourses of colonial power. The process of it varies according to the nation, race and is specific to texture and duration of the colonization which took place. The post-colonial period is changing and evolving within the contemporary global context. It is an intellectual process which places emphasis on independence of the minds. The fundamental principle of the Post-colonialism is the deconstruction of old-fashioned perceptions and attitudes of power and oppression that were adopted during the time of colonialism.

The body of postcolonial writing is comprised of writings from the formerly colonised countries, such as Africa, Asia, and South American nations. The Postcolonial writing focuses on the issues like cultural dominance, racism, identity, language, homeland, displacement, and the past or heritage. It is worth noting that the literatures produced by migrants, which can very well be termed as diaspora, are vibrant enough to attract attention, thus forms an integral part of Post-Colonial Literature.

Abdulrazak Gurnah is a Tanzanian-British novelist. He is the sixth writer from African Continent to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2021 " for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and fates of the refugees in the gulf between cultures and continents". Gurnah is the first writer who successfully created an entity called East Africa in this field. Gurnah's work shows his relationship to the mainland and also inspires to reflect on the subjugated places and suffers from colonialism. Therefore he is recognized as a dominant 'migrant voice'. Gurnah's focus on 'memory' and 'belonging' is considered an important contribution to the tradition of migrated Black British writers. He also made an influential place in the post colonial literary world.

In his literary career, Gurnah has written ten novels, essays, and short stories. He also worked as an editor for the literary magazine, 'Wasafiri'.He is known best for his novels include, *Paradise(1994),*which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize; *Desertion(2005)*; and *By the Sea (2001),*which was longlisted for the Booker Prize. Gurnah's books explore the harmful effects of colonialism in East Africa and the troublesome life of its inhabitants. His books raise the questions around ideas of belonging, colonialism, displacement, memory and migration. He holds a powerful position, and his works are celebrated for his exploration of colonialism and the experiences of migrants. The most important factor which distinguished him from other immigrant diasporic writers in the United Kingdom, is that his novels are seen as the reflection of his own life.

His first novel *Memory of Departure (1987)* deals with the themes of lingering trauma of colonialism , war, and displacement, and the same experiences have influenced his subsequent novels. His novels are centered on remembering, much of which are based on a desire to regain the history of Swahili coast, especially of the people of his native Zanzibar. Gurnah's novels like *Admiring Silence(1996), By the Sea (2001)*, and *Desertion(2005),* all concern " the alienation and

loneliness that immigration can produce and the sole-searching questions it gives rise to about fragmented identities and the very meaning of home".

Gurnah's novels explore into the world of East Africa especially the Swahili Coast. As a post colonial writer Gurnah breaks the conventions and bears the revolutionary spirit by illustrating the harmful effect of colonialism on the East Africa, his mainland.

Aims and Objectives:

This research aims at exploring the themes of migration, identity, alienation, and heritage or memory in the select novels of Abdulrazak Gurnah, in the ambit of postcolonialism. This research will focus on the aspects related to colonialism and it's aftermath which are central to the postcolonial writings.

The present research is aimed at analysing Gurnah's select novels in the context of 'migration', 'alienation', 'identity', 'heritage', and 'nightmare' in a critical way. The select novels proposed for study are as follows:

1) *Admiring Silence (1996)*
2) *By the Sea (2001)*
3) *Desertion (2005)*
4) *The Last Gift (2011)*
5) *Gravel Heart (2017)*

The Objectives of the study are as follows:

1) To study the novels of Gurnah in the context of " heritage" and "nightmare".
2) To find out the issues concerning "migration" and "diaspora".
3) To explore the themes of alienation, and identity in the novels chosen for study
4) To critically analyse the novels in the context of post colonialism.

Necessity of the study / Significance of the Study:

Abdulrazak Gurnah, the Sixth African, has received Nobel Prize for Literature in the year 2021, which has helped promoting interest in Gurnah all over the world.

The proposed attempts to study focus on the issues or themes which are central to the works of Third World. The notions like as migration alienation and identity in the novels of Gurnah are the burning issues that the whole world is suffering from.

Hypothesis / Assumption:

1) Abdulrazak Gurnah's novels project the image of 'Heritage as Nightmare'.
2) Migration gives birth to racism, alienation and identity crisis.
3) Heritage is a culture, tradition, language and religion etc. which is inherited from the past .
4) The conflict between natives and migrants evokes the feeling of alienation and identity.

Research Methodology:

The study will be partly analytical and partly applied in the sense that the tenets of post-colonialism will be applied while preparing the research framework.

Scope and Limitations of the Study:

Though Abdulrazak Gurnah has written Ten novels in all, the present study will be restricted to five of his novels for the purpose of convenience.

Research Design:

The proposed study will be divided in to Six chapters for the purpose of convenience as detailed here in:

Chapter I: Introduction
Chapter II: Review of Literature
Chapter III: Diasporic Consciousness in the novels of Abdulrazak Gurnah
Chapter IV: "Alienation" and "Identity" in the novels of Abdulrazak Gurnah
Chapter V: "Heritage as Nightmare" in the novels of Abdulrazak Gurnah
Chapter VI: Conclusion

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Supervisor

Dr. K. RAJKUMAR
Principal
Shri Guru Buddhiswami
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Researcher

TRYAMBAK G.BOBADE